

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-20  
NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 (ISO) R

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APPROVED BY EUR/WE:RPPAGANELLI  
-----002809 081952Z /50

P 081604Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IT, SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

1. REQUEST ANY REDRAFTING REQUIRED TO UPDATE PRESENT  
NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER ON ITALY. THIS PAPER APPEARS IN  
UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING BOOK FOR AGENCY USE IN RESPONSE TO  
PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. WOULD APPRECIATE  
HAVING MISSION COMMENTS IF POSSIBLE BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESENT PAPER ON ITALY.

BEGIN TEXT.

1. ILLICIT DRUG PROBLEM.

- ASIAN HEROIN HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE IN ITALY  
OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, GENERALLY ARRIVING THROUGH  
AMSTERDAM. DURING THE PAST YEAR A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF  
HEROIN HAS ALSO TRANSITTED THE ROME AIRPORT EN ROUTE TO  
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AMSTERDAM, WHERE IT IS DISTRIBUTED TO EUROPEAN MARKETS.  
MORE RIGID CONTROLS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED BY THE ITALIAN  
POLICE AT THE ROME AIRPORT. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ITALY  
IS ANY LONGER A SIGNIFICANT TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR  
ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC TO THE US.

- SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN HARD DRUG ABUSE HAS OCCURRED IN

ITALY IN RECENT YEARS, REACHING SERIOUS PROPORTIONS IN SOME URBAN AREAS. THIS HAS SERVED TO FOCUS PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM AND THE NEED FOR REMEDIAL ACTION. USE OF HEROIN HAS CONSIDERABLY INCREASED, ALONGSIDE CONTINUING SIGNIFICANT USE OF COCAINE, AND HASHISH. IN 1976 A NEW UNIT WAS ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AMONG THE SEVERAL ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES, AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE BEING CONSIDERED TO ENHANCE ITALIAN COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. UNDER A NEW DRUG LAW POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS FOR PERSONAL USE WAS DECRIMINALIZED, WHILE PENALTIES FOR MAJOR TRAFFICKING WERE INCREASED TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT TO TWENTY YEARS IMPRISONMENT. US MILITARY FORCES IN ITALY ARE NOT BELIEVED TO HAVE A HARD DRUG PROBLEM.

## 2. DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS.

- DESPITE THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF USE OF ADDICTIVE DRUGS IN ITALY THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE THUS FAR IN OFFICIAL PROGRAMS, ALTHOUGH ON-GOING EFFORTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE STRONG SUPPORT. REHABILITATION RATHER THAN PUNISHMENT IS EMPHASIZED IN DEALING WITH DRUG USERS. ENFORCEMENT IS DIVIDED AMONG THREE POLICE SERVICES: PUBLIC SECURITY (URBAN POLICE), CARABINIERI (POLICE ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY, SUBORDINATE TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN PEACETIME), AND THE FINANCE GUARD (CUSTOMS).  
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- THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORTED ALL IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROLS. ITALIAN POLICE COOPERATE WITH INTERPOL AND WITH FOREIGN ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT APPROVED THE PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION BUT HAS RATIFIED THE AMENDING PROTOCOL TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION.

## 3. US PROGRAMS.

- OUR GOALS ARE TO HELP IN INTERDICTING THE ILLEGAL FLOW OF NARCOTICS THROUGH ITALY AND TO ADVISE THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ON THE CONTAINMENT OF DRUG ABUSE. ENFORCEMENT GOALS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP AND CONTROL. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER ITALIAN OFFICIAL ACTION IN DEALING WITH DRUG PROBLEMS. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN MORE EFFECTIVE BORDER CONTROL AND AN EXPANDED INTELLIGENCE EFFORT.

- DEA REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED AT THE EMBASSY AT ROME, AND

AT MILAN AND GENOA, CONTINUE THEIR LIAISON, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, AND TRAINING FOR ITALIAN ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. THIS TRAINING HAS CONTINUED OVER THE PAST YEAR FOR ITALIAN CRIMINAL POLICE OFFICIALS. ALMOST ALL SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF HARD DRUGS AND TRAFFICKING IN ITALY HAVE COME ABOUT THROUGH THE US COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH ITALIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES. INCREASED ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO PROBLEMS OF DRUG ABUSE. NIDA PARTICIPATED IN AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE IN ITALY IN 1976, AND THE US IS CONTRIBUTING SUPPORT FOR A SECOND ITALIAN DRUG ABUSE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014